

REMARKS

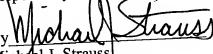
Submitted herewith is the Declaration of Alexander I. McAllister under 37 C.F.R. 1.131 establishing invention of the subject matter of the rejected claims prior to the February 8, 1999 effective date of Beith et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,449,496.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

If any additional fees are due in connection with the subject application, please charge our Deposit Account No. 06-2375, under Order No. 414.028 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: August 11, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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